

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether any agency/independent body other than the Government has undertaken such a study in Orissa or any other State; and

(e) if so, their evaluation of the impact of power reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Government of Orissa has set up a Committee to evaluate the experience of power sector reforms in the State. The Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) has passed 4 tariff orders. After unbundling of the State Electricity Board private management has been inducted into the four distribution companies in Orissa through disinvestment of 51% shareholding. While these distribution companies still continue to show cash losses, these are getting reduced through improvement in billing and collection. The financial turnaround has been slower than expected due to the lack of growth in industrial demand for power.

In Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan unbundling has taken place. The State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have passed tariff orders. Some tariff rationalisation has occurred. Improvement in billing and revenue collection has been reported.

#### **Takeover of DPC by Government**

1138. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the takeover of the \$ 3 bn. Dabhol Power Project as one of the options to end the row triggered by the high tariff charged by DPC;

(b) if so, the details of talks held recently in New Delhi by Enron's Chairman with Union Power and Finance Ministers and outcome thereof;

(c) whether "Centre mulls DPC takeover *via* NTPC or SPV route" as reported in The Economic Times, dated the 10th July, 2001; and

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(d) what benefits would accrue to Government by take-over of Dabhol Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Counter guarantees by Centre for Phase-II of Dabhol Power Project**

1139. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority had advised the MSEB that it should not proceed with the 1400 MW, Phase-II of the Dabhol Power Project before making sure that there was a demand for so much power;

(b) whether the Centre has given no counter guarantees for the Phase-II of this project; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The concurrence given by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to the Dabhol Power Project, stipulated, *inter-alia*, that Phase-II of the project could be taken up only after MSEB/Government of Maharashtra ensured absorption of the entire power including the off-peak power in or outside Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) The Government of India (GoI) has given counter guarantee only to Phase-I (740 MW) of the Dabhol Power Project.

#### **Winding up of Enron**

<sup>†</sup>1140. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

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<sup>†</sup> Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.